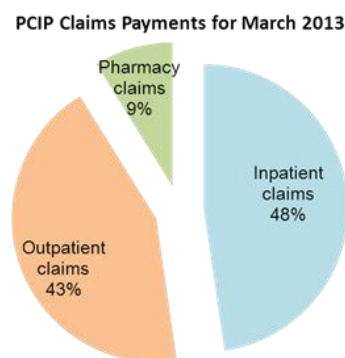


# Prescription Drugs

According to the 2009 California Health Interview Survey data<sup>1</sup>, over 2.2 million Californians did not have health insurance coverage for prescription drugs. As of March 2013, the California Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan<sup>2</sup> provided prescription drug coverage to nearly 20,000 Californians.

- As of March 2013, the majority (87 percent) of subscribers, or 17,224 enrolled in PCIP received prescription drugs.
- The PCIP paid over \$49.9 million in pharmacy claims, accounting for 9 percent of the PCIP's claims payments (Figure 1).
- Generic drugs accounted for 76 percent of the drugs prescribed and brand name drugs accounted for 24 percent. In contrast, generic drugs accounted for 25 percent of the pharmacy claims payment and brand name drugs accounted for 75 percent of payments.
- Subscribers receiving prescription drugs paid an average of \$337 in monthly premiums.
- Fifty-five percent of the subscribers were female and forty-five percent were male.
- Forty-six was the average age of subscribers receiving prescription drugs in ages ranging from 1 to 91.

Figure 1



**Top prescription drugs for child subscribers (age 1-11)** were to treat asthma, heart disease, and seizures.



**Top prescription drugs for adolescent subscribers (age 12-19)** were to treat bipolar disorder, asthma, diabetes, birth control.



**Top prescription drugs for adult subscribers (age 20 and older)** were to treat pain, diabetes, and asthma.



<sup>1</sup>California Health Interview Survey, AskCHIS web tool, results based on entire state of California with health insurance, Medications/Vision/Dental, and Covered for prescription drugs <<http://ask.chis.ucla.edu>>. Access to the website is free but registration is required to use the web tool.

<sup>2</sup>The PCIP is a health insurance program for Californians that been previously denied health insurance coverage due to a pre-existing medical condition. The PCIP is funded by the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and authorized by the Affordable Care Act.